GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5243
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
NEGLIGENCY IN DUTY
CHADA SURESH REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rats made a scheduled Air India Mumbai-Chennai-Kualalumpur-Singapore Airbus flight to returnto base minutes after taking off from the Mumbai airport in the last week of October, 2000;

(b) the cause of rat menace in aeroplanes;

(c) whether the planes are not fumigated regularly before the departure flights; and

(d) the action taken against those responsible for negligence?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a),(b), (c) and (d) :- Yes, Sir. Air India flight AI-488 returned to Mumbai after being airborne as rodent sighted on-board by cabin crew. Rentokill fumigation was carried out. Rodents enter aircraft through pallets/containers carrying vegetables, fruits and other perishable food stuff. They also enter aircraft through catering hi-lifts aero-bridge etc. Air India has an ongoing rodent control programme for all areas under its control. On aircraft, they carry out fumigation periodically and on sighting rodents.